

Message Text

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ACTION SS-25

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S E C R E T JERUSALEM 777

EXDIS

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: MILI, PEPR, UN, LE, IS, XF
SUBJ: POSSIBLE UN PEACEKEEPING OPERATION IN SOUTHERN LEBANON

REF: USUN 925

1. INITIAL DISCUSSION OF POSSIBLE UN PEACEKEEPING OPERATION
IN SOUTHERN LEBANON (REFTEL) UNDERLINES COMPLEXITIES OF
INTRODUCING NEW POLITICAL/MILITARY ELEMENT INTO AN ALREADY
COMPLICATED SITUATION WHICH WILL AT SAME TIME BE EFFECTIVE
AND POLITICALLY ACCEPTABLE TO THE PARTIES CONCERNED.

2. WE WONDER IF CANADIAN MILREP'S IDEA OF A LIMITED
ARMAMENT ZONE, SAY FROM THE LITANI TO THE ADL, COULD BE
COMBINED WITH A BEEFED UP UNTSO FORCE ASSISTED GRADUALLY
BE A RECONSTITUTED LEBANESE ARMY. DURING CONSIDERATION
OF A POSSIBLE EXPANDED UN ROLE TO HELP IMPLEMENT
SHTAURA AGREEMENT, WE RECALL URQUHART WAS OF OPINION
UNTSO COULD BE GIVEN EXPANDED ROLE PROVIDED GOL SO

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REQUESTED AND SC MEMBERS DID NOT OBJECT. UNTSO COULD
BE BEEFED UP RAPIDLY FROM UN FORCES CURRENTLY IN THE
AREA AND LEBANESE ARMY MIGHT BE ABLE TO ASSIST GRADUALLY
AS ITS CAPABILITIES EXPANDED.

3. KEY PROBLEM WOULD BE AGREEMENT BY ALL PARTIES DIRECTLY
CONCERNED, INCLUDING NOT ONLY PLO AND SAIQA, BUT OTHER ARMED

PALESTINIAN GROUPS IN SOUTHERN LEBANON IN ADDITION TO THE VARIOUS ARMED CHRISTIAN ELEMENTS. PALESTINIANS WOULD NOT LIKE IDEA THEY HAD BEEN EXPELLED FROM BORDER AREA BY IDF WHILE CHRISTIANS BEING ALLOWED TO REMAIN AND PERHAPS EVEN BE STRENGTHENED. IF LIMITED ARMAMENT ZONE CONCEPT COULD RESULT IN AGREEMENT TO ELIMINATE ALL HEAVY ARMAMENT (TANKS, ARTILLERY, MORTARS AND ROCKETS) EXCEPT THAT BELONGING TO UN AND LEBANESE ARMY, PALESTINIANS MIGHT LOOK MORE FAVORABLY ON SUCH AN ARRANGEMENT.

4. ARRANGEMENT SUGGESTED ABOVE WOULD HAVE EFFECT OF ACCOMPLISHING ONE OBJECTIVE OF SHTAURA AGREEMENT. IT WOULD HAVE OBVIOUS MERIT OF GIVING GOL PEACEKEEPING ROLE WHICH IDEALLY LEBANESE ARMY SHOULD PERFORM (ASSUMING IT COULD GRADUALLY DEVELOP CAPABILITY OF DOING SO). ISRAELIS WOULD PRESUMABLY BE REASSURED IF AGREEMENT CALLED FOR GRADUAL IDF WITHDRAWAL AS JOINT UN - GOL PEACEKEEPING FORCE PROVED ITS EFFECTIVENESS AND PLO AND OTHER PALESTINIANS SHOWED DISPOSITION TO COOPERATE.

5. IN LAST ANALYSIS, IT MAY BE THAT ONLY IDF OR ADF (I.E. SYRIA) CAPABLE OF MAINTAINING TRUE QUIET ALONG ADL. SINCE NEITHER OF THESE ALTERNATIVES IS POLITICALLY ACCEPTABLE, AT LEAST UN - GOL OPERATION WITH COOPERATION OF PARTIES CONCERNED WOULD BE AN IMPROVEMENT OVER THE TOTAL ANARCHY THAT HAS EXISTED IN SOUTHERN LEBANON PRIOR TO MARCH 15.

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